

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PROP, LY, EG
SUBJ: LIBYAN MEDIA REFUTES ALLEGATIONS OF EGYPTIAN PROPAGANDA

1. DURING THE PAST WEEK LOCAL LIBYAN MEDIA HAS MADE A
CONCERTED EFFORT TO DISPUTE ALLEGATIONS OF EGYPTIAN MEDIA
CONCERNING EVENTS OF RECENT DAYS IN LIBYA. APRIL 16, LIBYAN
NEWS AGENCY COMMENTARIES ON PRESIDENT SADAT, ACCUSES EGYPTIAN
MEDIA OF BEING A "SHABBY INSTRUMENT BLARING HALF-COOKED,
CONCOCTED LIES AND DISHONEST DISTORTIONS." THE COMMENTARY
THEN GIVES "EXAMPLES" OF THIS DISTORTION. IT INDICATES THAT
THE EGYPTIAN MEDIA REPORT OF THE "LARGE SCALE UNREST IN
BENGHAZI" MARCH 28 AND THE PRESENCE OF TROOPS DEPLOYED AT
ROAD BLOCKS TO CONTROL ALLEGED DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST
QADHAFI'S REGIME, ACTUALLY MARKED THE SEVENTH
ANNIVERSARY OF BRITISH EVACUATION DAY. ACCORDING
TO LIBYAN MEDIA, MORE THAN 200 OFFICIALS

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REPRESENTING 61 ARAB/AFRICAN AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS
AGENCIES, LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS, FOREIGN PRESS AND
BUSINESSES WITNESSED CLEBRATIONS IN BENGHAZI.
COMMENTARY'S POLITICAL EDITOR ASKS WHY REPRESENTATIVES
OF INTERNATIONAL MEDIA DID NOT REPORT ALLEGED ANTI-
QADHAFI DEMONSTRATIONS AND UNREST IN BENGHAZI. THE
COMMENTARY ALSO ATTACKS EGYPTAN NEWSPAPER AL-AHRAM

FOR ITS CLAIM THAT 40 TANKS ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED BY ETHIOPIA FROM THE SOVIET UNION WERE PURCHASED BY LIBYA. THE COMMENTARY CHALLENGED AL-AHRAM TO PROVE THIS ALLEGATION. IT CALLED THE ALLEGATION A DELIBERATE PIECE OF AL-AHRAM'S IMAGINATION WITH OBVIOUS MOVIES. THE COMMENTARY DESCRIBES OTHER ALLEGED EGYPTIAN DISINFORMATION AND INDICATES THAT LIBYA WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO ANSWER EVERY "SLANDEROUS AND MISCHIEVOUS LIE BY SADAT'S MEDIA."

2. LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY POLITICAL EDITORIAL OF APRIL 17 REITERATES PREVIOUS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST SADAT CONCERNING ALLEGED TERRORISTS ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATS IN BENGHAZI AND TRIPOLI. INTERSPERSED WITH THE ACCUSATIONS MADE AGAINST SADAT'S REGIME WAS A WARNING TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT THAT LIBYA EMPLOYS A QUARTER OF A MILLION EGYPTIANS WHOSE EARNINGS FEED ONE-QUARTER OF THE EGYPTIAN POPULATION. THE COMMENTARY CLAIMED THAT EGYPTIANS LIVING IN LIBYA CONTINUE TO ENJOY FULL SECURITY AND A DECENT LIFE WHICH "SADAT HAS PREVENTED THEM FROM DOING IN EGYPT BY BETRAYING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE JULY 23 REVOLUTION." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH A NOT-TO-SUBTLE WARNING TO EGYPTIANS LIVING IN LIBYA THAT THEY SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN SADAT'S INTRIGUES AND PLOTS AGAINST ARABS, IN GENERAL, AND LIBYA, IN PARTICULAR. IN, PERHAPS, ANTICIPATION OF WORSENING RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND EGYPT, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMENTARY STATES THAT SADAT WILL BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

3. CAIRO'S MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA) REPORTED APRIL 17 THAT THE EGYPTIAN CULTURAL CENTER IN TRIPOLI WAS STORMED BY DEMONSTRATORS - "AL-QADHAFI'S AGENTS" WHO DAMAGED THE CENTER. YET, RECENT CONVERSATION OF CHARGE WITH EGYPTIAN COUNSELOR AHMED ADEL INDICATES SITUATION HAD RETURNED TO NORMAL AND EGYPTIANS HAVE RESUMED ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO LIBYANS.

COMMENT: EGYPTIAN MEDIA'S LIBERAL INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS IN LIBYA IS OBVIOUSLY GEARED TO WHIP UP ANTI-QADHAFI SENTIMENT IN BOTH EGYPT AND LIBYA. LOCAL MEDIA REFUTATION OF EGYPTIAN PROPAGANDA AGAINST QADHAFI IS A CLEAR INDICATION OF GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN OVER AFFECT OF THIS PROPAGANDA ON LOCAL POPULACE IN THE WAKE OF THE RECENT EXECUTIONS CARRIED OUT BY QADHAFI'S REGIME.

WHILE LOCAL CLIMATE OF APPREHENSION AND FEAR DOES
EXIST IN THE WAKE OF THESE EXECUTIONS, LIBYANS DO
NOT APPEAR TO TAKE SERIOUSLY PROPAGANDA OF
EGYPTIAN MEDIA. TO THE CONTRARY, ANTI-EGYPTIAN
SENTIMENT HERE REPORTEDLY IS INCREASING.
CARLE

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